



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 5, 2025

Committee: House – Environment and Transportation

Bill: HB 131 - Bay Restoration Fund - Septic System Upgrades - Nitrogen Removal

Position: *Favorable*

Reason for Position:

On behalf of the Maryland Municipal League (MML), representing 160 municipal governments across the state, we respectfully submit this testimony in **support** of House Bill 131, which enhances the Bay Restoration Fund's Septic System Upgrade Program by establishing performance-based funding levels for nitrogen removal technologies in on-site sewage disposal systems.

We commend the General Assembly's commitment to improving water quality and environmental sustainability across Maryland. HB 131 takes a pragmatic and effective approach to addressing nutrient pollution by providing municipalities and residents with access to transparent evaluations and rankings of best available nitrogen removal technologies. By offering performance-based funding, this bill supports informed decision-making and the selection of cost-effective solutions that deliver measurable environmental benefits.

Many Maryland municipalities are on the front lines of managing wastewater infrastructure and addressing environmental challenges. This legislation directly benefits local governments by expanding funding eligibility to include the repair or replacement of failing septic systems and connections to existing municipal wastewater facilities. These measures not only help municipalities reduce nutrient pollution but also enhance public health by addressing failing or outdated systems. HB 131 also recognizes the importance of prioritizing areas critical to water quality improvement, ensuring that municipalities in sensitive areas have the resources they need to protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. This emphasis on transparency and accessibility further strengthens the partnership between the state, municipalities, and residents.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 131. For more information, please contact Tyler Alexis Brice, Manager of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at tylerb@mdmunicipal.org or 254-652-8110.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our shared environmental and public health goals.

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.